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CIA/ONE/STAFF MEM/45-61

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

16 August 1961

STAFF MEMORANDUM NO. 45-61 (Internal ONE Working Paper -
CIA Distribution Only)

SUBJECT: Dry Run for "Weekly Survey of Cold War Crisis Situations"

1. On 15 August, the USIB approved the report of the Ad Hoc Committee appointed to recommend means of providing early warning of cold war crisis situations. The USIB agreed to send ahead the ad hoc committee's proposed letter and to attach the committee's more detailed recommendations on procedures to meet this requirement. Final decision on whether to proceed is to be taken after discussion of the project by Secretaries Rusk and McNamara, General Taylor and the Director, and presumably after their views are submitted to the President. Thus we do not yet know whether this requirement will be levied on the USIB.

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2. In the meantime, at State's suggestion, the USIB directed that a dry run be undertaken by way of testing the proposed procedures and getting an idea of what the product would look

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like. This document is to be tabled at the USIB meeting on Thursday, 24 August. Based on the proposed weekly schedule for this exercise, agency contributions are to be received and an ONE draft disseminated on Tuesday 22 August; coordination with the representatives is to take place on Wednesday, the 23rd.

3. Criteria for selecting and excluding items, what section they go in, etc. are all matters which will have to be worked out by trial and error. By way of a starter, there are attached for Board discussion this week draft items for each of the three sections of the dry run Survey. As a practical matter, our most urgent business this week pertains to Section III - the subject of Annexes C and D below.

- (a) Annex A illustrates how Section I might look. This section is devoted to new or newly foreseeable crisis situations. Whenever such occur, they would first get star billing in Section I, subsequently being carried in Section II or III, depending on events. The Singapore item was chosen because it comes near to fitting the bill as of today; it might not next week when the dry run is going on. Often, there will be no items in Section I.
- (b) Annex B illustrates a way of handling Section II, which is designed to deal with significant changes in identified crisis situations. This, presumably, will occupy most of the time and effort devoted each week to the exercise. Precisely what items are included in next week's dry run will depend, of course, on developments between now and then, what the agencies propose and agree on

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next week, etc. The items included in Annex B are chosen as realistic candidates as of today, and are given for illustrative purposes.

Annex C is, in effect, a proposed Section III -- Previously Identified Crisis Situations. For purposes of the dry run exercise, it is desirable to have prepared a full Section III so that the dry runners do not have to spend too much time on this part -- as they will not in practice. The ad hoc committee's report envisaged this section as a checklist of situations which would also give in each case references to the previous treatment of the subject in this Survey and to any appropriate NIE, SNIE or other USIB-approved intelligence report.

Annex D demonstrates another means of handling Section III. It goes beyond the strict requirements of the charter just described, and would involve somewhat more work. It might, however, prove advantageous in other respects. At any rate, we are by common consent, in an experimental and formative stage, so it may be worth considering. This approach would, in addition to serving as a checklist and vehicle for citing appropriate USIB documents, also give a brief estimative view of the Section III situations -- in most cases lifted from NIE's or SNIE's.

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